FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT DISCUSSES LEBANESE SITUATION, CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

JN311906Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1645 GMT 31 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpts] The newspaper L'UNITA, organ of the Italian Communist Party, last week interviewed brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces. The interview, entitled "The Middle East at the Doors of Camp David," was published yesterday. Following is the full text of the interview.

Question: What is the state of affairs and future of the Palestinian resistance movement in the current stage and in light of the latest developments in the Middle East crisis and the Camp David conference?

Answer: The Palestinian revolution and the Arab area are passing through extremely critical times. The U.S. and Israeli plots continue to try to bypass the Palestinian movement in order to impose Israeli conditions on the area. This is absolutely not related to the genuine efforts to establish a just peace in the Middle East. Let us look at the recent attempts and intentions of world imperialism and Israel, led by the United States, to isolate the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. These attempts will not lead to peace. If we look at the stands of the United States we see several obvious retractions, beginning with Carter's statement on the need to give a homeland to the Palestinians, the joint Soviet-U.S. statement issued in October 1977, Brzezinski's famous statement "bye-bye PLO," and ending with Carter's retraction when he spoke of Palestinian participation in determining their own future.

In my opinion, the purpose of the Camp David meeting is to bypass the Palestinian issue and ignore the Palestinian people's rights--I mean their right to return, self-determination and establishment of their independent state on their national soil. All these rights have been ratified by the United Nations and recognized by the nonalined countries, the Islamic and African countries and the Arab League. I do not think anything will emerge from the Camp David conference but a general statement to save face, because the conference proceeds from premises which do not give anything to the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO.

Question: Arab press sources report that Jordan has turned down an invitation from Carter to participate at Camp David. Does this mean that there is a rapprochement between the PLO and the Jordanian regime?

Answer: There is no such invitation for King Husayn to participate in the conference. I believe that, if invited, King Husayn will not refuse. He is under pressure from the U.S. administration and hopes to play a role in this game to isolate the Palestinian people and their national rights, and isolate their armed revolution under the leadership of the PLO.

Question: The Palestinian movement has recently been subjected to bloody attacks. Some PLO representatives abroad were killed. The Iraqi regime was openly accused of carrying out these attacks. What can you tell us about this, and what are the causes of the conflicts between the PLO and Iraq?

Answer: First, I must say that unfortunately the contradiction between us and the present Iraqi regime began in 1970 when that regime took a stand, which harmed the PLO, in favor of King Husayn during the September massacres in Jordan. Following this, the Iraqi regime commandeered large quantities of arms--enough to equip 15,000 fighters--which had been sent to us by the PRC, in addition to clothes and equipment for 30,000 fighters. The Iraqi regime confiscated some factories we shared equally with it. It expelled the experts and technicians we had sent to supervise these factories.

Question: At the recent Central Council meeting in Damascus, Palestinian national unity was the basic topic. In light of the suggestions made by the Fatah Central Committee, what can you tell us about this topic?

Answer: We know it is not easy to unify the Palestinian revolution factions because of certain political differences. Some organizations are linked to certain Arab regimes. We are trying to achieve the maximum level of unity, not total unification. Through the PLO we have taken big strides. There are many unified organs, such as the unified military council, the martyrs' institution and the (?planning) center. We also have the Central Council and the National Council, which comprise all organizations of the Palestinian people. The recent Central Council meeting approved the program submitted by Fatah as the essential basis for national unity. A committee has been formed to follow up on this matter, and several bilateral meetings between Fatah and most of the Palestinian organizations have been held.

Question: Are you satisfied with the results?

Answer: I am very satisfied with the course of the discussions despite the imperialist campaign which is trying to (?exaggerate) the problems and current differences in the Palestinian arena. This campaign is part of the maneuvers to distort the PLO's reputation.

Question: What is the PLO's and your personal assessment of the situation in Lebanon, which has recently begun to show signs of deterioration?

Answer: You know very well that the situation in Lebanon concerns us very much. We live in this country and are affected by everything that happens in it. We have affirmed several times that we support Lebanon's stability, unity, Arabism and legitimacy. There are conspiracies to once again drag us into the conflict. The Israelis and Lebanon's isolationists directly participate in this conspiracy. The U.S. CIA also has a hand in this conspiracy.

Question: What is your assessment of and opinion on international terrorism?

Answer: You know very well our opinion on terrorist operations abroad. We in the PLO reject and condemn such operations, which we consider wrong. There are attempts [words indistinct] the Palestinian people under their legitimate representative, the PLO, in every terrorist operation which occurs in the world. At this juncture I proclaim on behalf of the PLO, the Palestinian people and the armed forces of the Palestinian revolution that we have nothing to do with these terrorist activities. We support world liberation movements which struggle against colonialism, Zionism, exploitation, racial discrimination and fascism. For instance, we support liberation movements in Africa and assist them [words indistinct].

'ARAFAT MAKES SPEECH AT AL-BUSS CAMP

JN312028Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1715 GMT 31 Aug 78 JN

[30 August speech by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at opening of a nursing class at the Palestinian Red Crescent hospital in the Al-Buss camp, southern Lebanon--recorded]

[Excerpts] Brothers, it gives me great pleasure to meet with you here in the Al-Buss camp and at this hospital where we celebrate together the blooming of the Palestinian roses. We stand here today on the land of heroes in southern Lebanon, the land which confronted the Zionist and U.S. imperialist invasion. The Palestinian fighter together with his brother the Lebanese struggler foiled the Zionist campaign and remains prepared to face all plots and enemy designs.

This celebration is significant because our revolution does not just carry a gun; our revolution has an ideology, a human message, and is the revolutionary turning point in the Arab arena. The imperialist Americans and the Israelis and their puppets in the Arab area fear this revolution. This is because our revolution is changing civilization in the Arab area!

Brzezinski, Weizman and Begin thought that this land was public domain. Therefore, a third of the Israeli army launched a massive campaign in an attempt to exterminate the PLO--its command, forces and cadres. The decision to do this, as you all recall, was first made in the Knesset. The result was that the Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist forces achieved an historic victory for our Arab nation.

Since the outbreak of the Palestinian revolution in 1968, all the refugee camps have been transformed into bases challenging U.S. imperialism, Begin, Zionism and all agents and lackeys in the Arab area. From this spot--from southern Lebanon, the land of steadfastness--and through our heroes the Palestinian fighters, I say to the United States, the Zionist movement and Israel that they cannot impose a settlement on the Arab area by bypassing the Palestinian people and the Palestinian gun. The force of the United States and the force of Israel will not be able to silence the Palestinian gun. Without the Palestinian there will be no peace in the Arab area. Hence, I can assure those who met or will meet in Camp David, Jerusalem and Ismailia that the Palestinian gun is the sole decisionmaker.

Brothers, there has been continual plotting against our people since 1948. Today's conspiracy is aimed at the Lebanese people in an attempt to create a new Israel there. But the Palestinian-Lebanese guns will foil the conspiracy and establish the greatest revolutionary base in the whole world.

PLO LEADER 'ARAFAT SENDS MESSAGE TO SOVIET LEADERS

JN3116Z1Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 31 Aug 78 JN

[Text] At noon yesterday Brother Abu 'Ammar received the Soviet charge d'affaires in Beirut. The brother commander in chief handed an important message to the Soviet charge d'affaires addressed to the Soviet leadership.

Our radio correspondent has learned that the message deals with the current situation in the Arab area, particularly the Palestinian revolution's stand against the Camp David summit, which poses a grave threat to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Brother Abu 'Ammar's message also deals with the grave situation in Lebanon resulting from Israel's intervention in Lebanese domestic affairs and its occupation of an important part of the south, as well as the effects of this grave situation on the Palestinian revolution and cause.

LIBYA'S JALLUD RECEIVES PFLP LEADER HABASH

LD3015427 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud received Dr George Habash, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], in his office at the Secretariat of the General People's Congress this morning.

ARAB LEAGUE OFFICIAL ON AGENDA OF 12 SEP MEETING

NC311555Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Aug 78 NC

[Text] The Secretariat General of the Arab League has been notified by Egypt, Morocco, Oman and North Yemen that their delegations to the Arab League Council meetings will be led by their foreign ministers.

Dr Sayyid Nawfal, assistant secretary general of the Arab League, has said that the Arab League Council will hold its session at the foreign ministers level on 12 September. He said that the Secretariat has not received any refusals from any member state.

Nawfal said that the council will discuss a report on developments in the Arab and international situation related to the Middle East crisis and Arab-U.S. relations. It will also fix a date for the Arab-African information ministers meeting, discuss a draft charter for an information code of honor, and coordinate the Arab states' stand at the upcoming UN General Assembly session.

VOP: REVOLUTIONARIES BLOW UP EDUCATION OFFICE IN NABULUS

JN301814Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 30 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Palestinian revolutionaries in the occupied homeland yesterday detonated a bomb at the entrance of the office of the Zionist education officer at the Education Department in Nabulus. The bomb exploded, causing great damage to the office and its contents.

This report came in a military communique issued today by the spokesman of the Palestinian revolution forces general command. The communique said: One of our groups operating inside the occupied homeland yesterday, 29 August 1978, placed a time bomb at the entrance to the office of the Zionist education officer at the Education Department building in Nabulus. At 2200 on the same day the bomb exploded, destroying the contents of the office and cracking its walls.

Afterward, the enemy intensified his patrols in Nabulus, set up roadblocks and apprehended a number of Palestinian citizens on the pretext that they were connected with the operation.

The group returned safely to its base.

PALESTINIANS PLANT EXPLOSIVES IN JERUSALEM WATERWORKS

JN311729Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 31 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpt] Palestinian revolutionaries continue to escalate their daring and heroic operations against Zionist enemy targets and vital installations inside the occupied homeland. A group of our revolutionaries have detonated delayed-action bombs inside several sections of the Zionist waterworks company [name indistinct] in Jerusalem. An undetermined number of the enemy employed by the company were injured and several machines were damaged. Water supply was cut off in several quarters of the city.

This was stated by the military spokesman of the Palestinian revolution forces general command in a communique on the operation.

SAUDI ARABIA

KUWAITI PAPER PUBLISHES REMARKS BY SAUDI OIL MINISTER

LD311620Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 29 Aug 78 p 7 LD

[Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Wealth Shaykh Zaki Ahmad Yamani answers questions by a Japanese parliamentary delegation at a meeting in Riyadh "at the beginning of the month of Ramadan"]

[Text] Question: It is being said that in the second half of this decade the world will face a disturbance in the balance of oil supply and demand. Such a disturbance will be serious to the extent that it will affect the military and political fields. What is your comment on this?

Ahmad Zaki Yamani: Every expert in the energy field expects a shortage in energy supply at some time in the future. How serious will this shortage be and when will it happen? The answer to this question varies according to different views. This depends on several factors, some of which are as follows:

First, I do not know to what extent the major industrial states will economize in energy consumption. If the United States and the other industrial states fail to reduce their consumption and if the rate of oil consumption continues to increase, we believe that we will soon see a shortage in supply of oil compared to demand. The shortage will be great.

Second, we do not know the rate of economic growth among the OECD states, nor if these countries will maintain an annual growth rate of 3.5 percent--as forecast by the OECD--for the coming years. Nor do we know if we will see a drop in economic growth in the eighties and, consequently, a reduction in oil consumption.

If the growth rate continues as expected in the coming years--at 3.5 percent--then we will face an increase in oil consumption because of the relation between oil consumption and the increase of per capita income.

Third, there is the ability of the major industrial powers to use other types of energy, such as nuclear energy, wind, water, coal and synthetic fuel. What these countries are currently doing is small in comparison with what they should be doing in order to avoid a serious energy crisis.

Fourth, there is the need to improve the standard of oil refineries in the consuming countries by incorporating, for example, refining equipment that enables the obtaining of more petroleum products from a single barrel of crude oil than what is being obtained through the methods used at present in most refineries.

The United States, for example, has taken an important step in improving its refineries and has been able to save 900,000 barrels daily.

This means a bigger financial investment, which must be carried out as soon as possible.

Fifth, there is an invisible or unknown factor, namely the USSR and Eastern Europe. We do not know whether one day they will import all their petroleum needs or whether they will be self-sufficient in oil. Should they need to import all their petroleum needs at some time in the future, this would contribute to causing serious changes in the energy situation and perhaps in the world political situation.

Sixth, what will the production of OPEC states be, particularly Saudi Arabia? This is a basic factor that could increase or lessen the danger of the energy problem in the future. This is an unknown factor today.

In view of all these unknown factors we cannot set a specific date as to when the oil shortage will begin, or determine the extent or the seriousness of the shortage, but every expert in the energy field knows that the quantity of oil that we have in the world today is insufficient to meet the world demand for energy at the rate of today's consumption, and the rate this consumption will be in the future.

Therefore, at some time in the future the picture will change. We are facing a surplus in production today because of North Sea production and Alaskan oil--a temporary phenomenon. In the future, the picture will change and we will face a second stage in which supply and demand will be balanced. This might be a brief stage unless we try to prolong it through joint efforts. After that we will move to a stage when the oil supply decreases. Every expert knows this, but nobody can give a definite answer as to when the oil shortage will begin or what the impact of such a shortage will be. If we do nothing in this regard, then we will face a serious situation which might not be too far off.

Question: Some people are demanding oil price increases, but in the past 2 years the Kingdom has been able to freeze prices. As we understand it, the Kingdom's policy of not increasing prices has been due to its fear that this action might contribute to economic instability; its desire to activate the world economy has been another factor in this policy. Efforts are being made in Japan toward this end, but what causes us concern is that the amount of light Saudi oil is decreasing. We realize that increasing consumption of heavy oil in the future is in the interest of the energy situation, but the result would be that the importation of heavy oil will create many problems that will lead to price increases, and lead to increasing petroleum prices.

Ahmad Zaki Yamani: With regard to oil prices, the Kingdom has resorted to all possible means to keep its prices frozen at the level of the past 2 years. But this has resulted in a lower oil price instead of a frozen price or a higher price, particularly with regard to such countries as Japan whose payments for imported oil have decreased by 20 percent, while the income of the OPEC countries has decreased to a large extent if we take into consideration inflation and the fluctuation of foreign currency rates.

The kingdom has pursued the policy of reducing prices in the past in order to contribute to dealing with the economic recession that prevailed until the end of 1975. But the reasons behind the oil prices remaining as they have up to now are not due to the world economic situation, which has actually improved since 1976, but to the increase in oil supplies, because of the North Sea and Alaska.

The price of oil is not the problem of the future; the problem is the [illegible] oil.

We must not be shortsighted and concentrate on prices as of today, because unless we open the way to increasing oil prices at some time in the future, we will face an acute increase in prices in the 1980's which will shake the world economy and will have a more serious impact than that of late 1973 and early 1974. In order to avoid such a shock, price increases must come in doses, so that when a big increase is achieved it will not be acute.

This leads me to the second question regarding the production of less quantities of light Saudi oil. I do not think that this is surprising. For a long time we have been talking about it with the foreign companies operating in the Kingdom.

We have told these companies since 1974--and we officially notified them in 1976--that we would rectify the rate of production. When we rectified the rate, it was somewhat late, but this was already known before. We will reduce the rate of production of light oil a second time and we will continue to do so until the production ratio between light oil and heavy oil reaches its correct level.

We do not think that doing this will create a problem. There will be a problem if we do not correct the ratio between heavy and light oil production, because the world will then face a problem that it cannot solve.

At present there is a surplus of oil because of North Sea production.

First, light oil reserves now available are limited and are decreasing rapidly.

Second, all the energy substitutes that can be used in the future, such as coal, nuclear energy and others will act as substitutes for light oil.

Producers of light oil within OPEC are suffering as a result because they cannot find markets for their oil. Nigeria, Libya and Algeria are now unable to sell what they wish to sell of their light oil, because of the large quantities of light oil on the market.

We believe that the major consuming countries must immediately start changing their oil refineries so that they can refine heavy oil and not light oil. We believe in this for the following reasons:

Heavy petroleum products require heavy crude oil. Therefore, should the situation remain as it is now, there will be an increasing demand in the future for light oil products that need light crude oil. The crude oil whose production should be increased is the heavy oil, since most of the light oil has been produced and its fields have begun to dry up.

Unless oil refineries are altered so as to process heavy oil and to produce more from that heavy oil, we will face a serious problem. What the Kingdom is doing now is making a contribution to solving this problem.

Question: If the OPEC countries declare their abandonment of the dollar and use a currency basket in oil pricing, this might contribute to improving the dollar's position. What is your opinion on this? With regard to crude oil prices, Japan highly appreciates the Kingdom's oil policy, but I am afraid that among the consequences of the Kingdom's decision to reduce the production of light oil will be an increase in oil prices. What is your opinion on this?

Ahmad Zaki Yamani: Personally, I believe that the drop in the dollar is not due to the declaration by the OPEC countries of their intention to use a currency basket in pricing crude oil and to abandon the dollar. If there has been any psychological effect caused by this declaration that might have caused some speculation, it is only temporary.

The main reason for the drop in the dollar is due to the rise in the inflation rate in the United States and to the deficit in the U.S. balance of payments. It might also be due, as some people claim, to a deliberate U.S. policy in its economic battle with Japan and West Germany, and a way of forcing Japan to change its policy, open its doors to more U.S. products, and reduce Japanese exports to the United States.

The situation within OPEC now is bad and painful, particularly with regard to the member states which borrow in order to finance their projects, or those countries which import most of their needs from Japan, like Indonesia, as they have to purchase a highly priced yen with the cheap dollar they obtained through the sale of their oil.

We have heard some politicans outside the United States say that if the pricing system were changed from the dollar to a currency basket, this would put an end to the U.S. policy of lowering the dollar rate and would prompt them to revise their policy of dropping the dollar's value. Such a claim may be right and may be wrong. In any case, it can be said that whether we remain with the dollar--and we plan to do so in any case--or we turn toward a currency basket, I do not believe the relation between the dollar's value and the pricing of oil is that strong. Even if the dollar rate should be affected by what is being said about resorting to a currency basket, this would only last for a week or two because of speculation.

With regard to the other question, cooperation between the Kingdom and Japan is a mutual need for both countries. It is the Kingdom's policy not to sell its oil on a long-term basis except in return for the building of industries by foreign countries or valuable technology exported by such countries. Japan will be insured a continuous and a long term oil supply. We need you for the building of our industries. This is a long term operation but, nevertheless, it is not yet too late [as received]. In the future, when the owners of ARAMCO Company do not have enough to meet the needs of the United States and Europe, I do not think that they will give preference to Japan.

We definitely need your assistance, but I do not think that there is time now to talk about the fields of cooperation. There is a joint committee between the two countries and it meets regularly. The Japanese companies are well aware of what the Kingdom needs.

Question: What about the difference in the prices of light oil and heavy oil?

Ahmad Zaki Yamani: I believe that we have somehow adjusted the difference in price as a result of our policy within OPEC. We also believe that the difference in prices must be greater and that a further adjustment must be made. One cannot be certain as to what will happen within OPEC.

Question: What measures is the Kingdom taking with regard to its accumulation of oil revenues in the light of the drop in the dollar value?

Ahmad Zaki Yamani: No effective measures are being taken regarding our accumulation of revenues. However, we are losing a great deal because the greater part of our investment is in dollars, not in yen or marks. We hope that this loss will be temporary and that the dollar will regain its value in the future, and that the loss we are suffering will thus be only a paper loss. Nevertheless, we are sustaining actual losses when we have to exchange part of our income, or of the dollar fund, into other currencies. Unfortunately, we are now compelled to do so.

Question: The political situation around the Gulf area is unstable: the coup in Afghanistan, developments in the Horn of Africa, the Russians are concentrating their forces along the supply routes because these supplies are the jugular vein of the free world. How do you view the situation?

Ahmad Zaki Yamani: We view this situation with great concern. In the light of what many people expect with regard to the Russians getting into a position in the future where they will need to import oil, we believe that Russian movements around the Gulf are aimed at creating a sphere of influence and at insuring their share of oil in the future, when they will need it. This explains their presence in Ethiopia and the problems they have created inside Iran and which are immediately followed by a coup in Afghanistan and another in South Yemen. God alone knows what will follow. This is a serious problem not only for the Kingdom and the Gulf countries, but also for the whole industrial world.

Question: What is your opinion of the tax which the United States is trying to impose on oil imports?

Ahmad Zaki Yamani: We do not favor, nor do we accept, increasing the tax on oil. We shall fight this within OPEC. If consumers wish to increase oil prices through taxes, this weakens the Saudi position. This position does not call for increasing oil prices, and such moves would provide a justification for those who advocate increasing oil prices within OPEC. These people wonder why more money should go into the coffers of the major industrial states through such taxation and why such money should not go into our treasuries as long as in both cases the oil price for the individual is going to increase.

We are watching this trend with some dissatisfaction. In the final analysis, it will have an impact on the policy of pricing being followed by OPEC.

EGYPT TO SUBMIT COMPREHENSIVE PEACE PLAN AT CAMP DAVID

NC0108l0Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0625 GMT 1 Sep 78 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpt] Cairo newspapers highlight the intensive preparations in Cairo, Washington and Tel Aviv in anticipation of the tripartite summit conference at Camp David. The newspapers emphasize the statement made by a senior Foreign Ministry official, who said that Egypt will submit a comprehensive and detailed plan to the conference. The plan will be based fundamentally on the six principles of the Egyptian plan. This plan was discussed at the Leeds Castle conference.

FOREIGN MINISTRY TO ISSUE WHITE PAPER ON AS-SADAT INITIATIVES

NC0107l5Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0658 GMT 1 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 1 Sep--AL-AHRAM says in today's edition that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has prepared a white paper on all of President as-Sadat's peace initiatives on the Middle East question. The paper adds that the 254-page paper will be distributed to all the world capitals today. AL-AHRAM says that an Arabic copy of the paper is being prepared. This paper is being issued by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry for the first time and the minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, has supervised its issuance.

EGYPTIAN-U.S. LOAN AGREEMENT SIGNED

NC311625Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 31 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug--A new $50-million loan agreement was signed today between Egypt and the United States for financing development projects in Egypt's industrial sector. Under the new agreement, the U.S. Government will provide $42.5 million during the 1978-79 fiscal year. The loan will be repaid over a 40-year period with a 10-year grace period, at 2 percent interest for the first 10 years following the initial use of the loan and 3 percent for the remaining 30 years. The loan will be used to finance U.S. exports and necessary technical assistance for replacement and reconstruction operations for industrial companies which require foreign currency amounting to between $2 million and $10 million, in addition to the technical assistance pertaining to planning and improvement of production.

The loan includes a $7.5-million grant to be placed at the disposal of the general authority for industrialization to finance training programs for evaluating, analyzing projects, studying the usefulness of projects and raising the standard of production to improve the atmosphere in industrial estates.

The agreement was signed for Egypt by Eng Ahmad 'Izz ad-Din Hilal, minister of industry, oil and mining, and Dr Hamid as-Sayih, minister of economy and economic cooperation, and for the U.S. side by Freeman Matthews, the U.S. charge d'affaires in Cairo.

VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK RETURNS FROM SAUDI ARABIA

NC312231Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 31 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug--Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo this evening from Medina aboard a special Saudi plane, after performing the minor pilgrimage there. He was received at the airport by Interior Minister Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il and the Saudi ambassador in Cairo.

MOROCCAN KING SENDS 'IMPORTANT LETTER' TO AS-SADAT

NC010743Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0656 GMT 1 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 1 Sep--AL-AHRAM says in today's edition that the Moroccan monarch, King Hassan II, has sent an important letter to President Anwar as-Sadat. The Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, M'hamed Boucetta, will be carrying the letter when he arrives in Cairo Saturday. The paper also says that King Hassan has recently exchanged letters with President Jimmy Carter on the Middle East question.

SALIM RESIGNS FROM LEADERSHIP OF ARAB SOCIALIST PARTY

NC312354Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2330 GMT 31 Aug 78 NC

[Text] During tonight's meeting of the Constituent Committee of the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt Prime Minister Mamduh Salim announced his resignation from the leadership of the Egypt party. In a speech made at the meeting, he said that the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt has shouldered its responsibilities to this moment and must share in building Egypt and promoting its freedom, security and prosperity, and must also contribute with others in reflecting Egypt's conscience.

At the meeting, which was held to discuss party affairs in the light of current events in the developing party democracy, Salim said that the regime is permanent and continuous and is not restricted by generations or individuals. He added: This is why I submit to you my resignation from the leadership of the party. I thank you and everyone who has chosen another path for all your cooperation. I thank all those who gave us their confidence as well as those who have disagreed with us. Our greatest gratitude goes to our leader President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat, under whose banner of freedom and democracy we will remain.

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT VISITS PORT SAID

NC312155Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 31 Aug 78 NC

[Text] This evening President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat met in Port Said with the governorate's political, popular and executive leaderships. The meeting was attended by Port Said Governor Sayyid Sirhan.

President as-Sadat earlier left Ismailia accompanied by 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman, head of the parliamentary group of Ismailia Governorate, and Eng Mashhur Ahmad Mashhur, head of the Suez Canal authority, heading for Port Said through the canal. During his trip the president inspected the navigational development project in the northern sector of the canal. He also inspected the waterway stations from Ismailia to Port Said. He met with groups of peasants in Al-Qantarah, Al-Kab and Al-Firdan.

The Port Said masses received President as-Sadat on arrival at the outskirts of the city with cheers for the president, champion of peace and liberation.

The president also made a tour of the city and inspected the city's free zone projects and the extent of their success. At the end of his tour the president met with the Port Said leader, who voiced the absolute support of the people of Port Said for him as he embarks on his journey to Camp David to establish just peace and liberate the territory. They also expressed Port Said's love and appreciation for the restoration of normal life to the governorate and for the reconstruction of the governorate and creation of free zones in it.

Meets With NDP Members

NC010645Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2330 GMT 31 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpts] President Anwar as-Sadat met this evening with the people of Port Said as a result of his meeting with the members of the National Democratic Party [NDP].

The masses were surprised to see President as-Sadat driving his small car through the city streets without any prior arrangements. As soon as the word spread, hundreds of Port Said people gathered around the car, which had to move very slowly amid splendid enthusiasm and cheers for the hero of peace and reconstruction.

The president spoke to the representatives of the National Democratic Party. He emphasized that the party's first task and principle is concentration on the projects of food, security and housing to complete the construction phase

He added: The whole world is looking forward to peace and to a maximum degree of prosperity for all nations. We are called upon to be an integral part of this. Our activity at this stage must be geared toward increasing production and toward serious and hard work in all sectors for the people's prosperity.

President as-Sadat left Port Said tonight for Ismailia.

SIGNING OF ATOMIC WASTE STORAGE AGREEMENT DENIED

NC290630Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2340 GMT 28 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 Aug--Dr Jamal al-'Utayfi, deputy speaker of the People's Assembly, has confirmed that no agreement has been signed between Egypt and any European state to store atomic waste in the Egyptian desert.

Dr al-'Utayfi said that the information he received from the Foreign Ministry today in reply to queries completely denies the signing of any agreement on this matter.

People's Assembly Speaker Eng Sayyid Mar'i on Sunday asked the foreign relations, national security and health affairs committees to follow up the question of atomic waste with the government to ascertain the facts of the subject and to send their findings to the assembly.

ECONOMIC DELEGATION RETURNS FROM BULGARIA

JN311635Y Baghdad INA in English 1530 GMT 31 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Aug--An Iraqi economic-technical delegation led by Trade Ministry Under Secretary Mr Mahdi 'Awdah returned home early today at the end of a week-long visit to Bulgaria.

During the visit the delegation signed a document on long term bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, industry, agriculture, oil transport, communications and construction. Mr 'Awdah said he discussed with Bulgarian officials means of developing bilateral economic relations and visited a number of industrial, agricultural and housing projects.

He said the results of these talks will be submitted to the Iraqi-Bulgarian joint ministerial commission on economic and technical cooperation due to meet in Baghdad next month.

TRADE MINISTER LEAVES FOR MEETING IN SWITZERLAND

JN010820Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 1 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Sep--Revolution Command Council member and Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali this morning left Baghdad for Switzerland at the head of a technical delegation to attend the first meeting of the joint Iraqi-Swiss ministerial committee, stemming from the trade and economic and technical cooperation agreement concluded between the two countries in February 1978.

'Ali said that during the meeting, the conferees will define the committee's work program for the next phase in the fields of cooperation provided for in the agreement. They will also select the most suitable formulas to implement the agreement for the purpose of developing trade relations and technical and economic cooperation between the two countries.

The delegation includes representatives of the trade, foreign affairs, planning, industry and minerals, agricultural and agrarian reform, and culture and arts ministries.

IRAQI ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO FRENCH PRESIDENT

JN311704Y Baghdad INA in English 1545 GMT 31 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Paris, 31 Aug--French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing today received the credentials of the new Iraqi ambassador to France, Mr Nuri Ismail (al-Wayyis).

Speaking at the ceremony, President Giscard d'Estaing stressed that France and Iraq are deeply aware of their contribution to building a world with further justice and solidarity in the service of peace among nations. He added that Iraq and France share identical views on the prevalence of cooperation and respect among nations and that the two countries' dependence on these principles is a response to the mutual aspirations and interests of cur people.

The president further said that naturally France and Iraq work for promoting their relations on the level of political dialogue and in the fields of economic, technical and cultural exchanges. He expressed France's desire for continued consultations between the two countries' leaders.

President Giscard d'Estaing asked the ambassador to convey his greetings to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Mr Saddam Husayn, vice-chairman of the Revolution Command Council.

Speaking on his part, the Iraqi ambassador conveyed President al-Bakr's and Mr Saddam Husayn's greetings to the French president.

The ambassador stressed that the distinguished Iraqi-French relations must be further deepened and strengthened in the service of mutual interests.

He pointed out that Iraq's keenness for deepening relations with France emanates from Iraq's sincere desire to provide opportunities for bilateral cooperation for the prosperity of our peoples and the welfare and stability of the world.

VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR THANKS IRAQ FOR AID, SUPPORT TO VIETNAM

JN010825Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 1 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Sep--Hoang Duc Phong, ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in Baghdad, has expressed the Vietnamese people's profound thanks and appreciation for the aid and support given by the Iraqi party, people and government to the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. imperialism and for national liberation. He also expressed thanks for the aid currently given by Iraq for postwar reconstruction in Vietnam.

In a statement on the 33d national day of his country, which will be observed tomorrow, the Vietnamese ambassador expressed the wishes of the Vietnamese party, people and government for further victories of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party and the Iraqi people in their revolutionary march.

INA REPORTS PROGRESS OF HIMRIN DAM PROJECT

JN261604Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1525 GMT 26 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug--The course of the Diyala River in northern Baghdad will be altered on 30 August to flow through two gigantic tunnels which have been dug as part of the first phase of the Himrin dam project. When the dam is completed, the tunnels--each 120 meters long and 6 meters in diameter--will be used for purposes of irrigation and power generation in a hydroelectric station with a capacity of 50 megawatts to meet the local needs of the Diyala Governorate, 50 kms north of Baghdad.

It is hoped that the project will control river floods and protect the lower Diyala basin and Baghdad from the dangers of floods by lowering the flow from 14,000 cubic meters to 4,000 cubic meters per second.

The Himrin dam project will irrigate 300,000 hectares of arable land in the Diyala area. It will also regulate the use and generation of electric power in the (Darbandikhan) dam, and promote tourism in the area.

The Himrin dam project is one of the big development projects being implemented by national technical cadres in cooperation with friendly foreign expertise. It is one of the big irrigation projects being implemented in Iraq, like the Hadithah and Mosul dam, the Ath-Tharthar project, the Al-Masab al-'Amm project, and the Kirkuk irrigation project.

INA: SYRIAN SOLDIERS KILLED IN NORTHERN LEBANON

JN311745Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 31 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 31 August--Tension fraught with caution prevailed over the Bsharri area in northern Lebanon this afternoon amid military preparations by Syrian forces of the Arab Deterrent Forces and by rightist militias after armed elements fired at a vehicle belonging to the Syrian forces. Preliminary reports said all occupants of the vehicle were killed. However, the number of occupants was not given.

The INA correspondent in the north said the military preparations included a withdrawal by the Syrian unit accused by rightist sources of committing the Bsharri massacre [words indistinct] and by another Syrian unit operating in the Tripoli area.

Syrian Forces Respond

TA311627Y Paris AFP in English 1623 GMT 31 Aug 78 TA

[Text] Beirut, 31 Aug (AFP)--Syrian troops of the Arab peacekeeping force here today clashed with armed elements in northern Lebanon after three Syrian soldiers were killed in an ambush, well-informed sources said here.

Reports said the Syrian troops were helicoptered into the area of Hadath al-Jubbah after an Arab forces vehicle was hit by a shell in the ambush at nearby Bsharri village.

Reports from the area said fighting was still continuing.

Heavy Clashes Reported

NC311635Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1627 GMT 31 Aug 78 NC

[Text] We have just received information that heavy clashes between the deterrent forces and the inhabitants on the axis of Hadath al-Jubbah-Hasrun-Bsharri have been in progress since this afternoon. There are no further details as to losses and the extent of the battle. We are still awaiting more details.

Deterrent Forces' Communique

NC311846Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Aug 78 NC

[31 August communique issued by the Arab Deterrent Forces Command--read by announcer]

[Text] At 1345 today, as a water supply tanker was routinely passing on the road between Hasrun and Hadath al-Jubbah in the northern area, a number of armed men ambushed the vehicle, firing an antitank rocket. The tanker was hit and two soldiers were wounded. The Arab Deterrent Forces in the area intervened and chased the gunmen, who fled to the mountains after firing several rounds during their escape.

The forces ceased their pursuit of the gunmen due to darkness. The deterrent forces will continue their investigation to identify and detain the culprits wherever they may be found. There is no truth to some reports about exchanges of shells and clashes. The situation was quiet up to the time this communique was released.

There have been no security breaches in the Al-Batrun area and in various areas in the north all day. The situation is gradually returning to normal.

VOL ON SHELLING IN BEIRUT, SITUATION IN NORTH

NC010622Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 1 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Explosions and gunfire were heard in the southern suburb of Beirut last night. Indiscriminate shelling, with intimidation as the goal, took place in the Al-Mazda and Al-Hayah areas and there were bursts of gunfire in Al-Hadath and in some of the western areas of Beirut.

Initial information indicates that the Syrian forces deployed around the area suddenly opened fire on 'Ayn ar-Rummanah at 2200 last night; they used rocket launchers several times during the night. Three citizens were wounded, one seriously. A number of vehicles parked in the streets were destroyed.

The Voice of Lebanon correspondent reports this morning that movement is dangerous on the Ash-Shiyah-Gallerie Sim'an Boulevard due to intensive sniper fire in the area.

In the north, Bsharri and the neighboring areas are in a state of alert because the Syrian forces attempted to create a problem with the citizens yesterday afternoon. These forces claimed that a military supply vehicle was fired at on the Al-Hadath-Hasrun road and that two Syrians were hit. Lebanese circles in the area have said it was a fabricated attempt to justify firing on the citizens and further aggravate the situation in the area.

Movement of Syrian Weapons

NC010810Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0715 GMT 1 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Reports received from Al-Biqa' today indicate that 50 trucks loaded with ammunition, 50 antiaircraft guns and 7 jeeps have crossed the Lebanese border and are proceeding toward the Al-Biqa', Shtawrah and Ba'labakk area.

IHDIN CONFEREES SUPPORT REGIME, ARAB DETERRENT FORCES

NC311715Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 31 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpts] The Ihdin conference which was attended by former President Sulayman Franjiyah, former Prime Minister Rashid Karami and Walid Junblatt ended today. The conferees issued a statement stressing the need to rally around legitimacy to move from the role of judge into the role of ruler. They also denounced Israel's policy toward Lebanon aimed at creating strife through its claim of safeguarding certain groups. The statement called on all Lebanese to rally around the aims and principles on which the unity of Lebanon is based and which prevent the attempts to partition it.

The statement says: In the light of the rapid, worrisome developments at home and abroad and out of a sense of national duty and responsibility, we deemed it necessary to meet and to come out with an initiative to end the present painful situation and reactivate efforts to rally the ranks and capabilities around common principles and aims to put an end to this tragedy, which has been going on for so long.

One of the primary aims around which we rally--an aim around which the forces that have a common belief in Lebanon and are determined to stand firm against the currents toying with their fates and interests also rally--is support for the regime in its task of fulfilling the role of the ruler and not the judge.

Our fundamental aim is still the desire to maintain the unity of Lebanon--land, people and institutions--and its freedom, sovereignty, independence, its democratic regime, and its Arabism. We reject the partition which the plotters at home and abroad are doing their best to achieve. The statement says: The partition of Lebanon means, in our view, an end to its existence. It means an end to Lebanon's political, economic and human bases and to the unique form of coexistence which characterizes it. This is the opposite of Israel's racism. Partition would also lead to a second Israel, which would be rejected by the surroundings in which it exists and by the world and which would be incapable of living and having a continued existence.

Israel is a racist, usurping state which is not believed by anyone when it claims that it safeguards, protects and defends the existence of the Christians. It is behind the plot and the war which it ignited in Lebanon. It did not show any concern for the Christians in Lebanon throughout the 2-year war. It is also behind the frequent attempts to destroy the distinguished status of Lebanon as a center of services, transit, trade, banking, tourism and industry.

Dealing with Israel--apart from constituting national treason, violation of the national charter, and an undermining of Arab solidarity--is liable to cause grave damage to hundreds of thousands of Lebanese who work in the Arab world and whose remittances to Lebanon constitute one of its main invisible revenues. Dealing with Israel has prevented the Lebanese Army and the UN forces from deploying in the south. We expect the government to fulfil its role in the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426 in imposing its authority over the whole area of southern Lebanon irrespective of the sacrifices.

The statement affirms that the Arab Deterrent Forces are present in Lebanon at the request of the legal authorities and are under their command, and, therefore, it is a legal presence. The statement calls for facilitating the task of the deterrent forces in Lebanon.

In conclusion, the statement says: Our meeting is a sincere effort to achieve these principles and aims. We declare our belief in these principles and aims and declare our agreement and solidarity to achieve them. We pledge to our citizens that we will use every means and will help each other in order to achieve them. We call on our brothers in all parts of Lebanon, on all communities and political, economic and worker groups, and, foremost, on the representatives of the people to rally around these principles and aims to achieve national unity, conciliation and salvation.

AFP: SYRIANS, PALESTINIANS ON MAXIMUM ALERT

TA010955Y Paris AFP in English 0910 GMT 1 Sep 78 TA

[Excerpts] Beirut, 1 Sept (AFP)--Syrian troops and Palestinian commandos have been put on maximum alert amid growing threats of Israeli military intervention in Lebanon, according to the Lebanese daily AS-SAFIR today.

As proof of its claims, it pointed to Israeli Chief-of-Staff General Refa'el Eytan's visit to the Golan Heights and Israel's northern front yesterday (Thursday), the Israeli Government's decision to make Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman responsible for handling the Lebanese problem and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's statements that Syrian domination of the Lebanon would be an extension of Soviet influence and therefore a threat to the security of Israel.

KUWAITI PAPER: USSR, U.S. SUPPORT SYRIAN MOVES IN LEBANON

NC310957Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 31 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 31 August--Citing diplomatic sources, the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH reports today that the Syrian Government received signals of support last week from Moscow and Washington in connection with the expected sweeping Syrian move in Lebanon and a possible confrontation with Israel.

The paper says that in contacts held recently with the Soviet Union on more than one level, Syria received Soviet assurances, including military intervention if necessary, if Israel intervenes to confront Syria in Lebanon.

The sources said that a Soviet military delegation arrived secretly in Damascus last Monday and spent 4 days studying the military situation, Syria's needs, and the circumstances that would require direct Soviet intervention if it becomes necessary. The paper says that when the Soviet military delegation returned to Moscow some 200 Soviet military experts left for Syria. This group is in addition to the Soviet experts already present in Syria.

The paper also reports that the United States has informed Syria through special channels that Washington does not object to Syria taking big steps to resolve the situation in Lebanon. The paper says that Syria depended partly on this green light from Washington when, in the middle of this week, it began what was described as a decisive move to cut the Phalangist military and political alliance to size and restore calm in Lebanon.

PAPERS COMMENT ON NEW LEBANESE TREND TO ACHIEVE UNITY

JN010919Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Sep 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, under the headline "The National Front is Lebanon's Way To Thwart the Plot," the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH comments on events taking place in Lebanon. It welcomes the setting up of a national front and says: While following events in Lebanon and contacts that have taken place, we note a plan is emerging--with signs that the intentions this time are real--to set up a wide national front aimed at establishing unity, placing Lebanon's welfare above all other considerations and seeking to rescue it from all its previous troubles, in which cards were mixed up and events entangled.

We have begun to spot a trend that runs counter to the rightwing practices and allegations, and exerts pressure so that legitimate authorities may turn from playing the role of a judge to that of ruler. This trend calls on the Lebanese masses to rally around legitimacy and reject divisive schemes. This true national trend, despite all the viewpoints it represents, has not yet moved out of the framework of theory; that is, it has not been translated into the tangible practical reality insisted on and aspired to by the people of Lebanon as the only way to save Lebanon. The cohesion of the internal front and the clear definition of its political identity will rob the enemies of the national line of their chances and will prepare a positive atmosphere in which the new Lebanon, unified Lebanon can breathe.

Commenting on the same topic, AL-BA'TH writes under the headline "Foiling the Big Plot Is the Most Important Thing": Today the gangs of Sham'un and the Phalangists reiterate the same Zionist line, saying Syria wants to annex Lebanon and crush its Christians. We shall not argue with these gangs for the simple reason that all their aims have become well-known to all the Lebanese, particularly the Christians. These gangs are implementing a Zionist-imperialist scheme directed not only against Lebanon but also against the whole region. All people in Lebanon and elsewhere have realized the truth of the Syrian stand, even those who once tried to distort Syria's role and stand. Syria entered Lebanon in order to rescue it from destruction and division and to preserve its Arabism. It has done so out of its pan-Arab principles, and not for the reasons claimed by agents. The Zionist and imperialist agents in Lebanon realize quite well and better than others that if Syria had wanted to do what they claim, it could have done so long ago.

AL-BA'TH concludes its article by saying: Syria, which sacrificed and is still sacrificing much for the sake of rescuing Lebanon and the unity of its soil and people as well as its Arabism, will not take heed of this wicked claim devised by world Zionism. On the contrary, this will increase its insistence on adhering to its pan-Arab stands until it topples the big plot, for which Lebanon was intended as the first stage, and until the Arab situation returns to the state it was in on the first days of the October liberation war.

Commenting on placing the Lebanese situation on the agenda of the Camp David conference, TISHRIN writes: We can now stress that raising the question of Lebanon at the Camp David summit meeting means that the sides to the settlement plot are trying to utilize the Lebanese situation to protect and consolidate the defeatist course of As-Sadat, who considers his security jeopardized only by Syria, the PLO, the states of steadfastness and the Soviet Union. This is also what Israel's rulers are now claiming. They say that Syria's control of Lebanon means Soviet control of Lebanon, as well as the arrival of Soviet arms in southern Lebanon, and, consequently, Israel's security.

In light of this we see why the sides to the U.S. settlement plot are making moves to set up a military alliance comprising Israel, As-Sadat's regime and the so-called moderate Arab regimes, under the championship of the United States, to deal with the security situation in the region according to the basic lines provided by Eisenhower's action 20 years ago.

RADIO REPORTS KHADDAM'S TALKS IN MOSCOW WITH KOSYGIN

JN3120117 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 31 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Moscow--Aleksey Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, received 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister in the Kremlin today. During the meeting they exchanged views on current international problems, particularly the Middle East issue, and on bilateral relations between the two countries in all fields.

The two sides expressed extreme anxiety over the tense situation in the Middle East area in light of recent events. They affirmed that the new attempts to split the Arab nation and impose capitulationist conditions on it serve only the Israeli and imperialist circles.

The two sides affirmed that the Soviet Union and Syria reject separate deals and will arduously continue to strive for a radical and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem based on regaining the occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing the rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to establish their independent state.

LIBYA

DIGNITARIES ARRIVE FOR ANNIVERSARY OF REVOLUTION

LD311458Y Tripoli JANA in English 1413 GMT 31 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 31 August, JANA--Delegations from sister states and friendly countries are arriving in Tripoli in order to attend the Libyan Arab people's celebrations of the ninth anniversary of the 1 September Revolution.

Last night a number of delegations arrived at Tripoli international airport including those from Upper Volta, Romania, Mali, Seychelles and the Popular Republic of Congo.

They were welcomed by representatives from the General Federation of Trade Unions, from the Foreign Liaison Bureau and from the Protocol Department at the Foreign Secretariat.

Poland's Defense Minister

LD010504Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Aug 78 LD

[Summary] "General Wojciech Jaruzelski, member of the Polish United Workers Party Central Committee Politburo and minister of national defense of People's Poland, and his accompanying delegation, arrived at 'Uqbat ibn Nafi' Base at noon today to take part in the celebrations of our people on the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the Great 1 September Revolution."

At the airport he was met by Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the armed forces, and others.

Syrian Information Minister

LD010950Y Tripoli JANA in English 0825 GMT 1 Sep 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 1 September, JANA--Mr Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, the Syrian information minister, arrived in Tripoli at the head of a delegation yesterday to attend the celebrations of the ninth anniversary of the 1 September Revolution.

He was welcomed by Mr Muhammad Abu al-Qasim Az-Zuwayy, the information and culture secretary, and by the Syrian head of the Liaison Bureau in the Jamahiriyah.

GDR Deputy Premier

LD010952Y Tripoli JANA in English 0827 GMT 1 Sep 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 1 September, JANA--The deputy prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Germany arrived in Tripoli yesterday at the head of a delegation to attend the Libyan Arab people's celebrations of the ninth anniversary of the 1 September Revolution.

He was received at Tripoli international airport by Mr Muhammad at-Tahir al-Mahjub, labour and civil service secretary, the East German ambassador to Tripoli and by a representative from the Protocol Department and another from the department of European affairs at the Foreign Secretariat.

Turkey's Chief of Staff

LD010954Y Tripoli JANA in English 0830 GMT 1 Sep 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 1 September, JANA--General Kanaan Orn, the Turkish chief of staff, arrived in Tripoli last night to attend the Libyan Arab people's celebrations of the ninth anniversary of the 1 September Revolution.

An official welcome headed by Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the commander-in-chief of the Libyan Arab forces, was given to the guest at Oqba Bin Nafe Air Base.

Secretary General of DPFLP

LD010956Y Tripoli JANA in English 0838 GMT 1 Sep 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 1 September, JANA--The secretary-general of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Mr Nayif Hawatimah, arrived in Tripoli last night to take part in the Libyan Arab people's celebrations of the ninth anniversary of the Great 1 September Revolution.

He was received at Tripoli international airport by a representative of the Arab Liaison Secretariat at the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress.

BOUMEDIENE CONGRATULATES AL-QADHDHAFI BY TELEPHONE

LD010938Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 1 Sep 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli--JANA has learned that a telephone conversation took place last night between Algerian President Houari Boumediene and brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. President Boumediene conveyed to the brother colonel congratulations on the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the Great 1 September Revolution.

This telephone conversation is a practical expression of the cohesion of the Algerian revolution with the Great 1 September Revolution in their struggle against imperialism and colonialism.

TUNISIA

PRESIDENT HABIB BOURGUIBA RETURNS TO COUNTRY

LD311636 [Editorial Report LD] Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic at 1545 GMT on 31 August in an unscheduled broadcast from Tunis-Carthage international airport carries a live relay of President Habib Bourguiba's return to Tunis after a stay in France, where he underwent medical treatment. The announcer says that the airplane carrying the president landed at 1540 GMT, and adds that Bourguiba is accompanied by his wife. The national anthem is then played and the president inspects the honor guard.

After the ceremonies the president and his wife enter the airport's VIP lounge. At 1600 GMT the announcer notes that the president and his wife are leaving the airport in a motorcade. The live relay ends at 1600.

WESTERN SAHARA

MESSAGE SENT TO WALDHEIM ON MOROCCAN ACCUSATION

LD1010004Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Aug 78 LD

[Text] UN sources in New York report that as a result of new provocations from Rabat in its attempt to gloss over the truth about the Saharan problem, the Saharan foreign minister has sent a message to Kurt Waldheim, UN secretary general, in which he says:

For about 3 years, the Moroccan Government has been involved in the imperialist campaign and has been unsuccessfully trying--since its attempts to confront the brave army of the Sahara and its increasing isolation--to deflect public opinion throughout the world and in Morocco from the truth. This has been Morocco's course of action every time the question of imperialism in the Western Sahara is discussed at the United Nations.

Morocco is trying to raise a secondary problem with another state; this is a well-worn imperialist policy. The expansionist and imperialist Moroccan statement represents another attempt, made while the committee of 24 is debating the question of liquidating imperialism in the western Sahara, and just before the 33rd session of the General Assembly, when the problem of the Sahara is to be discussed as a primary problem.

The people of the Sahara are clearly struggling to regain their sovereignty and the liberation and independence of their homeland. Nothing done in anticipation will cover up Moroccan crimes against our people. Like all imperialists who fall in the net of wars of national liberation, Morocco is trying to escape and tends toward adventuring [words indistinct].

There is no going back for the Saharan people in their struggle. They enjoy international solidarity. However, it appears that Morocco has developed the habit of producing dramas in order to mislead the world, as was the case in [words indistinct].

The author of the message continues: The accusations made by Morocco are serious; in the present circumstances they constitute a dangerous threat because they aim at diverting the attention of peace-loving countries and at destroying efforts toward peace by means of provocations and war-mongering. [words indistinct] the war of liberation which the Saharan people are fighting will continue with perseverance and [word indistinct].

The Saharan foreign minister concludes: I hope this message receives the attention it deserves, given the gravity of the situation [words indistinct]. We would remind you again that the government of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic which represents the Saharan people, is prepared to cooperate with you until an end is put to this (?volcano).

BRIEFS

MOROCCO GETS SAUDI LOAN--MAP, Djeddah--The Moroccan National Bank for Economic Development has obtained a loan of 100 million Saudi rials from a Saudi banking consortium. The ceremony at which this agreement was signed took place on Sunday in Al Kaaki Hotel in Djeddah. [Excerpt] [Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 28 Aug 78 LD]

BEGIN: NO FOREIGN TROOPS WANTED; DEFENSE PACT WELCOME

TA312023Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 31 Aug 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin declared that Israel will not agree to the stationing of foreign forces in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, neither U.S. troops, UN troops nor even U.S. units as a part of the UN forces. We do not want foreign troops to defend our citizens, he said. However, he expressed support for the idea of a mutual defense agreement between the United States and Israel and said that if such an agreement is proposed during his term in office, he would recommend that the cabinet accept it. If the agreement involves the positioning of installations in Israel for the Americans' use, we will do so, Mr Begin said.

The prime minister was speaking in the Knesset hall to 320 leaders of the United Jewish Appeal from the United States and Canada. He said that we are interested in the success of the Camp David conference, for the sake of Israel, Egypt, peace and President Carter's prestige.

The prime minister presented the five clauses which Israel will insist on at the Camp David talks. We will not return to the 1967 borders; and we will not accept minor changes in these borders. The IDF will remain positioned up to the Jordan. Israeli forces will remain in Judaea and Samaria to defend Israel's citizens forever. On these points, Mr Begin said, there is support from the Labor Party and so, in bringing them to Camp David, he will be representing the positions of 92 members of Knesset.

LIKUD MK OPPOSES U.S. TROOPS IN MIDDLE EAST

TA311944Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 31 Aug 78 TA

[Text] MK Yosef Rom from the Likud said today that the proposal to station U.S. troops in Sinai, Judaea and Samaria to guarantee Israel's security with the signing of the peace agreements represents a grave danger to the future of Israel in the area. Professor Rom, a member of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, said this at a meeting in Ramat Gan.

DAYAN BRIEFS MINISTRY HEADS ON LEBANON, CAMP DAVID

TA311632Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 31 Aug 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The Israeli delegation will talk with President Carter about the problems of the Christians in Lebanon. This was stated this morning by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan in a closed briefing of directors of departments in his ministry. Political correspondent Yosi La'or reports:

The Israeli delegation to Camp David will discuss the issue of Lebanon with the highest level of the U.S. administration. We have already given our views on the issue to the U.S. Government, Dayan said, and we will do this again at Camp David. Dayan was asked by the directors of the departments in his ministry if the issue will also be discussed with Egypt. No, he replied, Egypt has no direct interest in the Lebanese issue. The foreign minister added, that it appears that the Syrians want to take military control over Lebanon and there is no doubt that they will then massacre the Christians who are opposing them. Apart from the humanitarian aspect of the problem of Lebanon, Dayan said, there is the Israeli military aspect.

First the Syrians conquer northern Lebanon; afterward they advance to the south and then they will be joined by Russian advisers and batteries of antiaircraft missiles. This will then be a most grave problem for Israel.

The foreign minister also spoke to the directors of the departments in his ministry about the Camp David summit. This is an unprecedented meeting from the aspect of the challenge and the aspirations, he said. From the aspect of its content, this is the first meeting of its kind. Over the last year we have discussed partial agreements, demilitarizations, principles; now, at Camp David, Dayan said, we will have the first discussion of peace agreements.

The foreign minister also went into detail about new and questionable formulations of Palestinian elements concerning the character of the solution in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. Yesterday, in a public appearance, Dayan reported that the Egyptian representatives at Leeds Castle reported on the Palestinians' wishes in Judaea and Samaria. The Palestinians, the Egyptians said, are interested in a continuation of the situation of open borders with Israel after the signing of peace agreements.

Further Details

TA311633Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 Aug 78 TA

[Text] The foreign minister said that there is no certainty that the proposal called permanent partial settlement will be discussed at the Camp David conference. In a briefing of department directors in his ministry, Mr Dayan said that Israel will not submit the issue on its own initiative, and at the moment it does not appear that any other side will raise it.

MAPAM SECRETARIAT STATEMENT ON CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

TA311223Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 31 Aug 78 p 1 TA

[Decisions of MAPAM Secretariat at 30 August meeting]

[Text] A. The Camp David meeting will determine, to a large degree, the fate of the peace negotiations. Without a readiness on the part of the sides to soften their positions, we may reach a choice between an imposed settlement and a war. The Israeli representatives at Camp David must struggle for the attainment of a comprehensive peace between Israel and its neighbors.

B. The repeated announcements of the prime minister proclaiming his intention to prepare the public for a possibility of failure at the Camp David meeting arouses anxiety in the hearts of many. The results of the negotiations do not depend solely on Israel but it is Israel's duty to submit flexible proposals that will, in any case, be acceptable and sound reasonable to the United States, world public opinion and the world Jewish communities. For this the government will have to abandon its traditional position on the matter of sovereignty in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This it should do out of awareness of the national responsibility it is shouldering at this time. A policy designed to drag things out and gain time will be to no avail. The issue in question is negotiations for peace now under conditions that guarantee our security.

C. The six clauses submitted by the Egyptians at Leeds Castle are unacceptable to Israel. The information reaching the public from the Salzburg-Vienna meetings signals a possibility of leading the negotiations toward a comprehensive peace despite the existing differences of opinion.

D. The proposals of the Israeli Government which in one formulation or another seek to perpetuate Israel's rule in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip harm the future of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state and ruin the basis of negotiations with the Arab states. It is Israel's duty to declare its readiness for withdrawal on all fronts and to demand the border changes called for by Israel's security needs, demilitarization and security arrangements in the evacuated area. It is both Israel's right and duty to demand "recognized and safe borders" according to UN Security Council Resolution 242, and to stand behind the "Vienna declaration" which says the following on this matter: "Israel will withdraw on all fronts to secure borders that will be agreed on. The exact determination of secure borders will be made in peace negotiations."

E. Israel should insist that the solution to the Palestinian problem be found together with Jordan since, thus, it will be possible to demilitarize the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Space for settlement of the refugees will be created and the accumulation of resources necessary for the national life of the Palestinians and Jordanians will be guaranteed.

F. MAPAM demands again that all declarations on and implementation of new settlements in Judaea and Samaria be stopped. Those favoring settlement in the West Bank cannot but understand that these activities and declarations constitute an obstacle to every negotiating effort and undermine Israel's credibility in the entire world concerning its intentions in the peace negotiations.

G. The aggravation of the situation in Lebanon following the Syrian attack on the Christian regions in the north of Lebanon gives rise to apprehension and anxiety. The thundering silence of the world aggravates the problem even more. Israel has extended and will extend aid to the Christian minority, according to its ability and conditions. Israel must reject any advice that may lead to a deterioration in the region and foil the Camp David summit. It must guard its security affairs through close examination of the scope and background, and demand that international elements take immediate action to stop the Syrian offensive.

PERES DISCUSSES LEBANON PROBLEM, CAMP DAVID

TA311645Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 31 Aug 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] I am convinced that the Israeli delegation will do its best to help the Camp David conference go well. This was the impression the chairman of the Labor Party, MK Shim'on Peres, gained from a talk with Prime Minister Menahem Begin. The prime minister this morning reported to MK Peres, and to the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Prof Moshe Arens, on the positions which the Israeli delegation will present at Camp David. At the end of the meeting, MK Peres enumerated the points of agreement and those of dispute between the cabinet and the Labor Party, toward Camp David. [begin recording]

[Peres] I told the prime minister about the Labor Party's position, which is well known, both points of agreement and points on which we differ in our views. In my view we agree on the following points: We must not return to the 1967 borders and the question is not one of minor border amendments; Jerusalem must remain united; we must oppose emphatically the establishment of a Palestinian state; Israel's defense begins at the Jordan River; and there is a need for an IDF presence in Judaea and Samaria. However, the Labor Party and the Alinement continue to support territorial compromise.

This is Jewish aspiration, not an Arab one. I do not dismiss the possibility that it may also be possible to formulate something very close to territorial compromise in the negotiations with Egypt. I believe that the correct way to hold the negotiations with Egypt is to complete the declaration of principles. Now the Americans are calling this guidelines, but the difference is only semantic. I have reasons to assume that the Egyptians support the Vienna document. I think that the Vienna document could also be improved on one or two very important points. [end recording]

ISRAEL SAID PRESSURED TO MEDIATE CHRISTIAN-UNIFIL AGREEMENT

TA311041Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 31 Aug 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Ze'ev Schiff]

[Excerpts] In the wake of a U.S. appeal and pressure on the part of the UN secretariat and prior to the submission of the UN report about the UN forces to the UN Security Council, Israel yesterday agreed that UN forces in southern Lebanon may move freely in the Christian enclaves, establish liaison offices in two settlements and station soldiers in the UN observation posts along the border.

The turning point came in the wake of the recent visit in Israel of the assistant to the UN secretary general. The UN official met with Defense Minister Weizman, explaining to him, among other things, that in preparation for the submission of the report to the Security Council about the activity of the UN forces and in view of the intention of the UN secretariat to renew the mandate there, Israel is required to agree to the free movement of UN forces in the Christian enclaves in southern Lebanon.

The assistant to the UN secretary explained that if no change occurs, the report will include sharp criticism of Israel for not, among other things, handing over to the UN forces the entire area from which it withdrew, and for maintaining involvements in the enclaves.

He also explained that if no change occurred in Israel's position, there was a danger that certain countries would refuse to let their soldiers participate in the UN force. It was reported at that meeting that an answer to all these demands would be given in a few days to General Siilasvuo by the chief of staff.

This meeting, held on Sunday and in which Generals Siilasvuo and Erskine took part, was not successful. General Siilasvuo said that he came to receive the answer promised the assistant to the UN secretary general but the chief of staff did not give him the expected answer. Later the commander of the UN forces, General Erskine, asked for a meeting with the commander of the northern command, Major General Ben-Gal, but the latter set a meeting date 2 weeks away.

It seems that in the wake of these difficulties the UN secretariat turned to the United States and other countries, and these exerted pressure on Israel.

MAJOR HADDAD DENIES AGREEMENT REACHED WITH UNIFIL

TA311215Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 31 Aug 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] Speaking to correspondent Yehezq'el Hame'iri, the commander of the Lebanese forces in southern Lebanon, Maj Sa'd Haddad, proclaimed a short while ago that no agreement has been reached with UNIFIL and that there will be no new UNIFIL deployment in the field without the consent of the enclave commanders.

[Hame'iri] Maj Sa'd Haddad is totally amazed at the announcement on an agreement of which he does not know a thing. I heard about it on the radio, he said with irony. How can one reach an agreement about something that has to do with our life and fate and not make us partners to such an agreement? Haddad asked.

Haddad does not know anything about an agreement, and he and his men remain adamant that they will not let the United Nations have a foothold in the enclave under their control, not to mention free passage on roads in their area. As far as I am concerned, there was and is only one agreement, namely, the agreement I reached with UNIFIL Commander Emanuel Erskine, Haddad told me. That agreement, reached in the first days of the UNIFIL in the south, determined a division of areas between us and the United Nations, and UNIFIL troops have no business in areas under our control, Haddad pointed out.

Haddad said that he is ready to negotiate at once a new settlement with the UN forces. A settlement that would enable UNIFIL to move freely in every area of the enclave, and even set up positions and observation posts as much as they wish, but with one proviso: that UNIFIL first remove the terrorists who have peretrated into various regions under its control, particularly on the slopes of Fatahland. More than 500 terrorists have so far infiltrated into the southern sector, Haddad claimed, accusing UNIFIL of shutting its eyes, and even of cooperating with the terrorists.

Haddad does not believe that Israel would force him to accept a settlement unbeneficial to him and would make him give UNIFIL free passage in the enclave and the right to establish footholds. After all, we and Israel have one supreme common interest, Haddad told me. We want to prevent the return of the terrorists, and anyone lending a hand to that end should be blessed.

At this stage, in fact, there is no UNIFIL movement in the field, or any indication of UN intentions to break through the roadblocks leading to the enclave, or to deploy in the area of the enclave.

We are now living in peace and in brotherhood with UNIFIL, Haddad said and stressed, and I do not believe that they will resort to the use of force. After all, UNIFIL also has learned the lesson that we honor our word. Just as we did not let the Lebanese battalion pass, so there is no chance that the UN troops would deploy with force, against our wish and without an agreement with us. That agreement has to be fully satisfying to us, and it has to be made solely with us.

CORRESPONDENT STANDS BY INITIAL REPORT ON AGREEMENT

TA311637Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 31 Aug 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] In the wake of the partial reservations voiced by Major Haddad regarding the reports on an agreement between the United Nations and the Chrstians, military correspondent Yosi 'Abadi points out that the Defense Ministry spokesman vouched for the correctness of the details of the agreement between the United Nations and the Christians as reported in the announcement by the spokesman of the UN forces in the Middle East. According to this announcement, the UN forces have been permitted to establish observation points in the two main hamlets in the enclaves, Marj 'Uyun and Bint Jubayl. The establishment of two positions in the enclaves, of observation points along the Israel-Lebanon border, and also freedom of movement has been permitted to the UN forces within the enclaves.

SHINUI, 'AMIT GROUPS TO UNITE ON 1 SEPTEMBER

TA311118Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 31 Aug 78 p 1 TA

[By Avner Tavori]

[Text] The Shinui Movement and the 'Amit group will announce tomorrow the establishment of a joint movement based on unity between the two groups which have withdrawn from the DMC.

At a joint meeting of the heads of the two groups in Tel Aviv last night, it was decided to set up two preparatory teams to deal with the details involved in the establishment of the new movement. One team will deal with the preparation of the platform and the principles for their cooperation, and the other will prepare the technical arrangements involved in the merger.

The teams are to finish their work within 2 days. The composition of the teams has not yet been decided.

In about 2 weeks the funding council of the new movement will be convened in order to approve the joint platform and hold elections for the institutions. It seems that at the first meeting a discussion will be held about the proposal to withdraw from the coalition, and, judging by the composition of the former members of the DMC Council who will join the new movement, a majority is expected for this proposal.

The new movement will consist of seven Knesset members, five from the Shinui movement and two from the 'Amit group. The new movement will be as large as the Democratic Movement headed by Yiga'el Yadin. MK Asaf Yaguri is still holding contacts with various elements and has not yet decided on his position.

It appears that the new movement will be joined by nearly 70 of the former members of the DMC Council. Of the members of the former council, 61 participated at the founding convention of the Democratic Movement headed by Yadin.

Most of the participants at yesterday's meeting between Shinui and the 'Amit group spoke in favor of the merger. Ramon Har'el from the 'Amit group said that forming two independent factions would be preferable; Stef Wertheimer from Shinui seconded him in that, but the two shared a minority position.

MOSLEM COUNCIL PROTESTS EGYPTIAN REPAIR OF AL-AQSA

TA311651Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 Aug 78 TA

[Text] The head of the Supreme Moslem Council in East Jerusalem, Shaykh (Hilmi al-Mukhtasib,) has issued a protest denying Egypt's authority to make improvements to Al-Aqsa Mosque. He also expressed anger at the fact that Egypt contacted the Jerusalem municipality on this matter. The protest states that the Supreme Moslem Council is the only institution authorized to make decisions on this matter and there is a committee which deals with the matter on its behalf.

SHAH, HUA KUO-FENG HOLD PRIVATE TALKS

LD311650Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 31 Aug 78 LD

[Text] The second round of talks between the shah and His Excellency Hua Kuo-feng was held this afternoon at Sa'dabad Palace. During the meeting, which lasted for more than 1 hour, the shah and His Excellency Chairman Hua Kuo-feng held private talks on regional and international issues as well as on relations between Iran and the PRC.

Officials Discuss Trade

LD311652Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 31 Aug 78 LD

[Text] The high-ranking officials accompanying Chairman Hua Kuo-feng to Iran met and conferred with senior trade and economic officials of Iran at the office of the prime minister this evening. Trade relations between the two countries as well as their possible expansion were discussed at the meeting.

Hua Departs

LD010820Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0800 GMT 1 Sep 78 LD

[Text] Hua Kuo-feng, chairman of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and premier of the PRC State Council, who was in Iran for a 4-day official visit at the invitation of the shah, left Tehran at 1030 today. At Mehrabad Airport the shah personally saw off his illustrious guest. The departure ceremony was also attended by Prime Minister Sharif-Emami, a group of high-ranking state and military personalities and the ambassador and members of the PRC Embassy in Tehran.

Sends Message to Shah

LD011024Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 1 Sep 78 LD

[Text] His Excellency Hua Kuo-feng, chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and chairman of the State Council of the PRC, after leaving Iran today sent a message of thanks addressed to the shahanshah aryamehr. The text of the message reads as follows: His Imperial Majesty Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi, the shahanshah of Iran. On concluding my friendly visit and while flying across your country, permit me to express once again my heartfelt and sincere gratitude and appreciation to Your Imperial Majesty, the imperial government and the Iranian people for the welcome and hospitality accorded to us. The visit to your country was extremely fruitful and I am confident that the cooperation and relations between our two states will increasingly become stronger and wider. I wish Your Imperial Majesty health and success. Hua Kuo-feng.

SNA: SHARIF-EMAMI ORDERS RELEASE OF SEVEN OPPOSITION LEADERS

LD010316Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 2135 GMT 31 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Tehran, 31 Aug--Iranian Prime Minister Sharif-Emami today issued an order releasing seven opposition leaders from internal exile in Iran. The decision followed talks Sharif-Emami held with some religious leaders in Iran within the framework of his efforts to end the wave of riots against the government which has been sweeping Iran for some months. The Iranian prime minister said that talks are continuing between him and the religious leaders.

AFGHANISTAN

TRADE MINISTER LEAVES FOR SOFIA EXHIBITION, TALKS

LD312110Y Kabul in English to Europe 1900 GMT 31 Aug 78 LD

[Excerpts] On the invitation of the Government of Bulgaria, Comrade Abdul Qodus Ghorbandi, minister of commerce, at the head of a delegation, left for Sofia at midday today. The minister of commerce during his stay in Bulgaria will visit the international exposition in Sofia scheduled to open on 3 September. Comrade Ghorbandi, prior to his departure, in an interview with a BAKHTAR reporter at the Kabul International Airport, said that during the trip he will hold talks on the possibility of expanding trade between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the People's Republic of Bulgaria and also on Bulgarian participation in Afghanistan's development projects.

DELEGATION RETURNS FROM VISIT TO USSR

LD312158Y Kabul in Arabic to Arab World 1638 GMT 31 Aug 78 LD

[Excerpts] Comrade Mohammad Bareq Shafi'i, the minister of information and culture, has returned home from a visit to the USSR at the head of a delegation invited by the Soviet Government.

Comrade Shafi'i has stated to the representative of BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY that during his stay in the USSR he signed the scientific and cultural agreement between Afghanistan and the USSR for 1978 and 1979. He also held fruitful and interesting talks on matters of interest to the two friendly neighboring countries with Soviet party and state authorities, including authorities of the Soviet Foreign Ministry. He also had talks with the first deputy minister of the USSR's Ministry of Culture and Information concerning cooperation between the two countries in the cultural and artistic fields. Comrade Bareq Shafi'i (?considered the) visit of the Afghan delegation to the USSR as useful and expressed [words indistinct] over the hospitality accorded to the Afghan delegation during its stay in that country.

Comrade 'Abd al-Qayyum Murjan, member of the executive of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and permanent under secretary of the Ministry of Education and member of the Afghan delegation met with the Soviet minister of education and discussed the field of education.

The minister and his companions also visited the capital of the Kazakhstan SSR and met with the Kazakhstan prime minister and the minister of culture and information. He discussed matters of common interest.

The minister of culture and information said that under the technical and cultural agreement, delegations will be exchanged in the fields of higher education, technology and culture.

BANGLADESH

DACCA: REFUGEE REPATRIATION TO BURMA BEGINS

BK3113S4Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Aug 78 BK

[Text] The return of the Burmese refugees in Bangladesh begins today with the first batch leaving for home. (?The first batch of) 200 of them are to leave the camps today. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees which will supervise the repatriation has announced plans for the operation. The plan announced in Geneva envisages the return of the Burmese Moslems to their homes in batches of 200 and the rest will return to Burma in similar batches every 3 days from the 15th of next month.

INDIA

VAJPAYEE ISSUES STATEMENT ON INDIAN SAILOR MISTREATMENT IN UK

BK3109S8Y Delhi ISI in English 0835 GMT 31 Aug 78 BK

[Text] Minister of External Affairs Atal Bihari Vajpayee made the following statement in the Rajya Sabha on August 30 regarding the detention of 17 Indian seamen in the United Kingdom:

Sir: With your permission, I would like to make a statement on the 17 Indian sailors held in detention in the UN whose case has aroused deep concern in Parliament. A reference was made in the Rajya Sabha on 28 August to this case by Bhupesh Gupta, Shiv Chandra Jha, Sadasiv Bagaitkar and Sitaram Kesri.

We have ascertained the facts of this case both from our High Commission [in] London and the British High Commission in New Delhi.

On 7 August 1978, the High Commission of India was informed by Pentonville Prison authorities in London that 17 Indian seamen from the Greek ship "Calypso" had been detained in prison. They had been discharged by the captain of the ship on 5 August at Tilbury Port, but could not be persuaded to board a plane at London airport on the same night. There had been a dispute between the seamen and the captain over wages and service conditions. The captain had called on the British authorities through the London agent of the Ulysses Line, which owns the ship, to arrange for repatriation of the dismissed members of crew. These numbered 22, including 2 Pakistanis. The British authorities refused the dismissed seamen leave to land in the UK. Under their rules, people refused permission to land must be deported and in the interim, they should be held in detention.

A British prison service escort took the dismissed crew from the ship to the detention centre near London airport. On a report from the captain who has alleged that the dismissed men had staged a near mutiny, the British prison service escort handcuffed the seamen during their transit. When they were taken to the airport, the Indians refused to go on board the aircraft until their dues were settled. The British authorities put them in a detention centre near the airport, but since this centre did not have enough accommodation, the next day 17 of them were moved to Pentonville Prison. We have been informed by the British High Commission that Pentonville Prison is also used for the detention of people awaiting deportation when there is not enough accommodation.

The British authorities deported three of the Indians and the two Pakistanis by 6 August. Seventeen Indian seamen, however, refused to cooperate in getting deported until their demands were settled. The spokesman of the group was, however, repatriated to India by the British on 18 August under escort. There has been some criticism of the Indian High Commission's handling of the case both in the press and in Parliament. I would like to inform the House that the Indian High Commission, from the time it was told of the detained Indian seamen, engaged in continuous efforts with the British authorities, the shipping line and the detained Indians to resolve the problem. Two officials of the Indian High Commission visited Pentonville Prison on the afternoon of 7 August and met prison authorities as well as the spokesman of the detained Indians. One of them again visited the prison on 9 August and met agents of the ship, their solicitors and the detained Indians. In discussions, it appeared that the shipping line was prepared to re-employ all the Indian sailors except for the spokesman of the group. The others, however, were not prepared to rejoin the ship nor to leave Britain until their demands were met. The Indian High Commission formally wrote to the British Government on 9 August asking to be informed as to the circumstances in which these Indians were detained in prison and requesting action for their release in case no charges were preferred against them. Again, the High Commission wrote to the Home Office that the sailors should not have been subjected to handcuffing during their transit from ship to airport since they had not been charged with criminal offences. On 18 August, the High Commission understood that the shipping company was about to reach an agreement with the remaining 16 crew, but the agreement apparently broke down. The same day, they were met by second secretary in the Indian High Commission at the airport detention centre. Again on 22 August they were met by another official of the Indian High Commission before they were brought to Pentonville Prison. The High Commission has been in close touch with the British Home Office at a senior level. On 25 August, two senior officials of the High Commission visited the prison and met the seamen. On the same day, the commission also consulted the shipping company and the president of the Indian Workers' Association which had taken interest in this case. Terms for the settlement of demands were being negotiated with an interim part settlement. It was expected that a settlement would be reached on 29 August.

The sailors concerned have apparently been engaged by the Greek shipping line in places outside India since they were not holding continuous discharge certificates. While we sympathize with their demand for equality of treatment and wages, complications have arisen because this dispute has been pursued in a third country. The sailors were free to leave the United Kingdom at any time, but their detention was due to their insistence on a prior settlement of their claims.

One aspect of this case which has caused justifiable concern was the handcuffing of the dismissed seamen. Although it has been explained that this was a precautionary measure adopted by the British authorities, we cannot but express our unhappiness over the treatment meted out to our nationals on complaint of the captain. We have conveyed our resentment over this to the British High Commission here and to the British Government in London and have sought assurance that our nationals are not subjected to such indignities again.

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